



[Home](#) > [Infrastructure Canada](#) > [News Releases](#) > [Border Infrastructure Fund](#) > 2004

A new solution for the Windsor Gateway endorsed by all three levels of government

- [Backgrounder](#)
- [Memorandum of Understanding](#)

Windsor, Ontario, March 11, 2004 - The Governments of Canada, Ontario and Windsor today announced new measures that are part of a joint \$300 million federal-provincial investment to help improve the Windsor Gateway, Canada's busiest border crossing.

Today's agreement identifies five initial project investments, including:

- Improvements to the Windsor-Detroit Tunnel Plaza in order to provide for more effective traffic management, including the implementation of the NEXUS program;
- The construction of a pedestrian overpass near the intersection of Huron Church Road and Girardot Street by Assumption High School to improve the safety and convenience of residents and children in the community;
- The final design and construction of the Walker Road rail grade separation at Grand Marais Road and the completion of an Environmental Assessment for the Howard Road rail grade separation to reduce traffic congestion and support the efficient movement of goods by rail and trucking modes;
- Improvements to the Industrial Drive/Huron Church Road intersection to support the development of a pre-processing facility on Industrial Drive; and
- The implementation of intelligent transportation systems along transportation corridors leading to the border crossings (eg. changeable message signs) in order to maximize the efficient operation of the network.

The Governments of Canada and Ontario are jointly committing a total of \$300 million to Windsor Gateway improvements. Today's announcement represents the first important steps in the new Let's Get Windsor-Essex Moving strategy. It will be a multi-year strategy that will improve road safety, speed up the flow of cross-border-traffic, protect and strengthen local jobs and growth, and beautify transportation corridors.

"The strategy will help boost Windsor's economy and the vital role the city plays in the economies of Ontario and Canada," said Transport Canada Minister Tony Valeri. "More than \$140 billion a year in exports and imports pass through Windsor."

"Perhaps the biggest change of all is a change in attitude. There is a new spirit of cooperation among all levels of government," said Ontario Transportation Minister Harinder Takhar. "We are now working together to build strong and safe communities for the people who live here. I expect to see construction start this summer on some of the initiatives announced today."

"This is good news for the citizens of Windsor," remarked Minister of State (Infrastructure) for Canada, Andy Scott. "Today's announcement moves us all forward on a package that will benefit

Windsor through significant upgrades in infrastructure and increased trade with the USA."

"Our new approach is far superior," said Windsor Mayor Eddie Francis. "It's much more collaborative and it focuses much more on addressing community and regional needs - including less congested streets. More importantly, it recognizes the dual role of Windsor as both a community in its own right and as the largest Canada-U.S. gateway."

A subsequent agreement will be developed between the three governments on a priority basis to identify additional projects that will be pursued to improve the efficiency of the Windsor Gateway. This new approach replaces the nine-point Windsor Gateway Action Plan.

For further information contact:

Danna O'Brien
Ontario Ministry of Transportation
(416) 327-1815

City of Windsor
Norma Coleman
(519) 255-6977

Infrastructure Canada
Communications
(613) 948-1148

Transport Canada
Brian McGregor
(613) 993-0055

Background

Let's Get Windsor-Essex Moving Strategy

Context

Windsor is the single-most important border crossing point between Canada and the U.S. More than 20 million cars, trucks and buses travel through the city each year, representing approximately thirty-three per cent of Canada-U.S. truck trade. In 2001 alone, this two-way merchandise trade totalled over CDN\$140 billion. As Canada's automotive industry heartland and a major economic hub for the Province of Ontario, Windsor's economy is intricately linked with the international border crossing.

Windsor is also a local community, home to many people and families. It has the same aspirations as other communities - a good quality of life, clean environment, attractive urban design, and safe, predictable transportation within the city's neighbourhoods.

Unfortunately, congestion and pollution have been a cause of frustration for Windsor-Essex residents and businesses for some time. In today's "just-in-time" economy, regular truck traffic delays and congestion on Windsor streets not only result in heavy economic costs for local industry, but also present safety and environmental concerns for the people who live in Windsor-

Essex.

Let's Get Windsor-Essex Moving Strategy

Today, the Government of Canada, the Province of Ontario and the City of Windsor signed a Memorandum of Understanding for the Let's Get Windsor-Essex Moving Strategy. The strategy sets out initial investments in projects that recognize Windsor's unique needs to maintain a safe environment and high quality of life for residents while hosting an international Gateway.

With new leadership at all three levels of government, there is a keen understanding and appreciation for Windsor's role in the Canadian economy, and a willingness to work in cooperation with the community to find the best possible solutions to the current traffic and congestion problems. The three levels of government, in consultation with Essex County, will continue to work together on a priority basis to come to agreement on additional projects that will be pursued to improve the efficiency of the Windsor Gateway. Such discussions will include consideration of, but not be limited to, improvements to Huron Church Road, EC Row Expressway, Lauzon Parkway and other options as they may be presented. The Let's Get Windsor-Essex Moving strategy replaces the nine-point Windsor Gateway Action Plan. New projects announced today include:

1. Improvements to the Windsor-Detroit Tunnel Plaza in order to provide for more effective traffic management, including the implementation of the NEXUS program. Canada and Ontario will each contribute up to \$10 million towards the plaza redevelopment, subject to approval by Windsor City Council and Windsor Tunnel Commission.
2. Construction of a pedestrian overpass on Huron Church Road at Girardot Street near Assumption High School in order to improve the safety and convenience of residents and children in the community. Canada and Ontario will contribute equal funding.
3. Final design and construction of the Walker Road rail grade separation at Grand Marais Road and the completion of an Environmental Assessment for the Howard Road rail grade separation to reduce traffic congestion and support the efficient movement of goods by rail and trucking modes. Canada and Ontario will contribute equal funding.
4. Improvements to the Industrial Drive/Huron Church Road intersection to support the development of a pre-processing facility on Industrial Drive. Canada and Ontario will contribute equal funding.
5. Implementation of intelligent transportation systems along transportation corridors leading to the border crossings in order to maximize the efficient operation of the network. Canada and Ontario will contribute equal funding.

The Government of Canada and the Province of Ontario are committed to investing in the Windsor-Essex economy to ensure continued growth and jobs, and an enhanced quality of life.

For further information, please contact:
Transport Canada

Emna Dhahak
Ontario Ministry of Transportation
(416) 327-1158

Norma Coleman
City of Windsor

(519) 255-6977

Windsor Gateway

Memorandum of Understanding

Made this 11th day of March, 2004

Between

THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA, represented by the Honourable Andy Scott, Minister of State (Infrastructure) for the Minister of the Environment, and Jerry Pickard, Parliamentary Secretary to the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness with special emphasis on Border Transit.

THE GOVERNMENT OF ONTARIO, represented by the Honourable Harinder Takhar, Minister of Transportation,

AND

THE CITY OF WINDSOR, represented by His Worship Eddie Francis, Mayor of Windsor.

WHEREAS the Governments of Canada, Ontario and Windsor recognize the importance of infrastructure investments at border crossings with the United States;

AND WHEREAS the Governments of Canada, Ontario and Windsor recognize that the safe and efficient movement of people and goods through the Windsor Gateway is of great importance to the economies of Canada, Ontario and Windsor;

AND WHEREAS the Governments of Canada, Ontario and Windsor recognize that improvements to the transportation infrastructure need to be sensitive to and consider the impacts on the local community;

AND WHEREAS the Governments of Canada, Ontario and Windsor appreciate the need for complementary enhancements to Canadian and United States customs and immigration border processes and resources in order to optimize the benefits of investments in transportation infrastructure;

AND WHEREAS the Governments of Canada and Ontario have jointly committed up to \$300 million to invest in the Windsor Gateway.

THEREFORE, Canada, Ontario and Windsor hereby agree to the following course of action:

I. INITIAL INVESTMENT IN PROJECTS

1. Canada, Ontario and Windsor shall jointly fund improvements to the Windsor-Detroit Tunnel Plaza in order to provide for more effective traffic management, including the implementation of the NEXUS program. Canada and Ontario shall contribute up to \$10 million each towards the plaza redevelopment, subject to approval by the Windsor Tunnel Commission and Windsor City Council.
2. Canada and Ontario shall jointly fund the construction of a pedestrian overpass of

Huron Church Road at Girardot Street at Assumption High School in order to improve the safety and convenience of residents and children in the community. Such funding shall be equally shared between Canada and Ontario.

3. Canada and Ontario shall jointly fund the final design and construction of the Walker Road rail grade separation at Grand Marais Road and the completion of an Environmental Assessment for the Howard Road rail grade separation to reduce traffic congestion and support the efficient movement of goods by rail and trucking modes. Such funding shall be equally shared between Canada and Ontario. Canada and Ontario will work with Canadian Pacific Railways to ensure that the grade separations conform to rail service needs and do not disrupt rail traffic.
4. Canada and Ontario shall jointly fund improvements to the Industrial Road/Huron Church Road intersection to support the development of a pre-processing facility on Industrial Road. Such funding shall be equally shared between Canada and Ontario.
5. Canada and Ontario shall jointly fund the implementation of intelligent transportation systems along transportation corridors leading to the border crossings in order to maximize the efficient operation of the network. Such funding shall be equally shared between Canada and Ontario.

II. AGREEMENT ON ADDITIONAL PROJECTS

1. Canada, Ontario and Windsor agree to meet to develop a Phase 2 agreement on additional projects that will be pursued to improve the efficiency of the Windsor Gateway. Such discussions shall include consideration of, but not be limited to, improvements to Huron Church Road, EC Row Expressway, Lauzon Parkway and other options as they may be presented.
2. Canada, Ontario and Windsor will work on a priority basis to finalize the Phase 2 agreement.
3. Canada, Ontario and Windsor agree to appoint one representative each to lead the discussions among the three governments to develop the Phase 2 agreement.
4. Windsor will consult and continue to work together with representatives of Essex County as discussions on Phase 2 proceed.

III. COMMITMENT TO LONG TERM SOLUTIONS

1. Canada and Ontario agree to work with the governments of the United States and Michigan to expedite, to the extent possible under legislation, the completion of the Bi-National Planning Process.

IV. COMMITMENT TO WORK TOGETHER

1. Canada, Ontario and Windsor agree to establish a joint steering committee to lead the implementation of the actions identified in Section I, as well as any further agreements between the governments under the terms of Section II.
2. The Steering Committee shall be comprised of two representatives nominated by each of Canada, Ontario and Windsor, as well as two representatives nominated by the County of Essex. Representatives shall not be sitting members of the Parliament of Canada, Ontario Legislature or a municipal council.
3. All terms of the Memorandum of Understanding are substantial and significant, and

shall be incorporated into future agreements.

4. All projects shall comply with all applicable laws and regulations, and be subject to receiving all appropriate authorizations.

Government of Canada
Andy Scott
Minister of State (Infrastructure)
for the Minister of the Environment

Government of Ontario
Harinder Takhar
Minister of Transportation

City of Windsor
Eddie Francis
Mayor

Date Modified: 2011-01-28